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## Today's Weather.

Portland, Ore., March 16.—Oregon  
Washington and Idaho Friday, cloudy  
to partly cloudy with showers.

## UNJUST TAXATION.

It has been announced that an ordinance is being prepared to submit to the common council next Monday night to require the Astoria Electric Co. to pay a license of \$100 per year on each car used by that company to haul fuel from the saw mills to the power house. Just what possible excuse or justification exists for such an ordinance is probably known only to the author. If the city is getting short of funds, there are other ways in which they can be secured. It is very possible that the council could do away with a man superintending the construction of Franklin avenue, which the council ordered not to be done, and which is clearly the duty of the superintendent of streets. There has been over \$1000 illegally paid out to political pets in giving them positions unwarranted by the charter or ordinances, and which the common council themselves admit, and which Councilman Hansen explained at a meeting of the council that there was no authority to employ any person to superintend the construction of streets yet they are doing today, just what they declared to be illegal last week.

Instead of throwing obstructions in the way of enterprise, they should be encouraged. Many cities exempt various enterprises from taxation in order to induce them to locate. No one is going to invest capital in any enterprise without a possible chance of making interest on the money invested. No one is going to put money in a city or town when there is a disposition to enforce hardships upon them in the way of unjust taxation. Capital is timid, and is controlled by shrewd business men, who are willing to invest and assist in building up a city, where their efforts are appreciated.

The Astoria Electric Company have invested over \$200,000 in Astoria, in a street car line and nearly \$300,000 in electric light, gas and power. They paid out during the year 1904 nearly \$40,000 in betterments, wages and supplies, every dollar of which is spent in Astoria. They have extended their lines east and west and contemplate still further extensions. They paid this year in taxes, according to the assessment books, \$1277.33, or over \$100 a month in taxes alone. And now someone wants to make them pay a license on their freight cars.

The excuse offered by the father of the ordinance is, according to a statement published in the Budget, that "the city compels the owners of drays to pay a license and limits the weight of the loads which can be hauled on any dray over the public thoroughfare, and I see no reason why similar restrictions should not be placed on cars."

There is an apparent density of intellect or wilful ignorance lurking in the thick tank of the author of the ordinance. The ordinance limiting the weight hauled on trucks and drays has never been enforced and is violated every day. It is true that the teams all pay a license, but so does the street car company. They pay about \$150 per year license on street cars, or \$30 per year on each car run. The drays and trucks wear out the streets and are the only vehicles in the city that does wear them out. If there were no drays or trucks, instead of having to repair Commercial street every two years, besides an enormous expense for constant repairs, the street would last for twenty years. The street cars do not wear out the streets. Section 7 of the ordinance granting the street car company a franchise provides as follows:

Sec. 7. The streets over which said railway line shall run, between the rails and one foot on each side thereof, shall be kept in good repair by the owners of said railway in such manner

as shall be directed by the common council of the City of Astoria."

Do the drays and trucks pay for keeping the streets in repair? No. The property owners are compelled to keep the streets in repair for the benefit of the drays and trucks. The street car company do not use the streets, except the portion through the center over which their rails are laid and cars are run, and they keep this in repair and good order without any expense to the city, and drays and trucks wear it out more than do the street cars. In fact all the repairs which the company are compelled to make are caused by the drays and trucks, and they do not contribute one cent toward keeping it in repair. Will any reasonable man then say that there is any reason or justice in such an ordinance?

The Astorian has no interest in the Astoria Electric Co., nor the Astoria & Columbia River Railroad, nor the O. R. & N. Co., except the interest all good citizens should have in protecting their interests and encouraging them to extend their lines, provide a pay roll and assist in building up and developing the city and county. There are some people in Astoria that seem to be opposed to any improvements, and some of them would not be in business in Astoria today were it not for the money put in circulation by these companies every year in Astoria. The Astorian is in favor of securing capital to come here and invest, and it will oppose any attempt to impose unjust and illegal restrictions for the purpose of impairing their usefulness or keeping capital out.

## HUMANE POLICY.

"The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge!" President Roosevelt had this ancient Hebrew platitude in mind when, on addressing the American Tract Society yesterday, on the occasion of the annual meeting of that organization in Washington, he spoke of the necessity of aiding the immigrant. It was estimated at this same session that the total immigration this year will reach the million mark. The chief executive sensibly said that whether this horde is to become useful citizens or unruly dependents depends largely on the start it gets. The immigrant landing in the vast majority of instances with limited means, no knowledge of the language or country and no friends, is often at a loss where to turn. Sometimes he falls prey to sharks; often he is the victim of oppression; naturally his opportunities slip by. Failing to find America the Elysium the foreign immigration agent had painted it to him, he grows disgruntled; after several years of poverty, a man who came here determined to build up a competence by sobriety and industry degenerates into a malcontent.

Mr. Roosevelt advocates the cooperator system strongly. He said agents of the American Tract Society should meet the immigrant on his arrival to extend to him the cordial right hand of American Christian fellowship. He should be aided to secure temporary quarters and afterwards work. If worthy, he should be given pecuniary assistance, so far as possible. His body should be clothed and those of his wives and children and his children's children. But important as is the body, far more vital is his soul. He should be given a conception of American ideals and morals. He should learn the laws of the land. If he is not a Christian, thinks Mr. Roosevelt, the American Tract Society and similar associations should try to make him one. For if in luxury this generation indolently eats the sour grapes of self-satisfied, over-confident plain sailing the next battle will find its teeth on edge. In the battle with the millions of descendants of unruly immigrants.

## JAPANESE VICTORY.

The abrupt appearance of the Japanese troops, north of Mukden, cutting the railroad and threatening the complete segregation of his forces from his forces from their base, presented two alternatives to General Kuropatkin—to oppose the force opposing his center, or to retreat. In the first he failed miserably, and the retreat followed.

The least that we may expect to learn from the series of intense engagements that have been fought over a long line of front is that the Japanese have gained another great victory. What effect this will have on the prolongation of hostilities is still a matter for conjecture, though it is urged that the moment has almost arrived when Russia's stubbornness must be met by the inevitable conclusion that she is not alone defeated—but conquered as well.

There is just a possibility that the Japanese may force the issue more quickly than even they themselves had hoped. The enveloping process going on beyond Mukden, if it were to result in cutting off an important body of Russian troops, would have its moral as well as its physical effect on present conditions. That Kuropatkin is dangerously threatened by this determined move of the enemy there can be no doubt. The ability of the Japanese to accomplish the capture of a

considerable portion of Kuropatkin's army will depend more on their reliance and endurance than on numbers. Both sides must be suffering painfully from exhaustion. In the event of the success of this coup, eager pursuit by Oyama might force Kuropatkin to surrender, thus putting an end to the war. Should Kuropatkin succeed in withdrawing the main body of his forces and fortifying a new position further north, the continuant of hostilities may be looked for until Russia recognizes the hopelessness of her situation. The Japanese would have everything in their favor for an easy repetition of Li Tai Yang and Mukden, with the hope always of capturing the entire Russian army.

While it can be well believed that great slaughter has followed on both sides in the clashing of these two mighty armies, the reports that are permitted to come through are most vague and misty, the number of the killed ranging from a score to a hundred thousand men; nor is there exact knowledge of the number engaged, although the full army strength of both nations in Manchuria is supposed to be battling. It is estimated that nearly a million men were grouped in the two armies before the fighting began, and the valor displayed on both sides is the marvel of the world.

## PRESS OPINIONS.

Local Press is Deserving of Support of the Public.

The following clippings, taken from several prominent newspapers in dorse the position of the Astorian in patronizing home industries. There are a number of other similar expressions in the state press, all along the same line:

Away out on the Pacific coast at a town called Astoria the chamber of commerce have to send 600 miles to find a magazine in which to advertise the town, notwithstanding there are several newspapers published there. St. Paul was built up by its newspapers and no one thinks of sending away from home for printing.—Pioneer Press

The Astoria papers are hauling a commercial organization over the coals for making a contract with a California magazine to advertise the city when there are four papers published in the city. The organization must be a very old one, as all modern commercial bodies evince a spirit of enterprise.—Walla Walla Union.

Judging from the rough handling the chamber of commerce of Astoria, Oregon, is getting from its local press for going away from home for its printing, that city does not give evidence of that progressive spirit so manifest in many of the western towns.—Chicago Record Herald.

Atlanta has grown and prospered by and with the aid of its home newspapers. Atlanta is essentially a home city and people believe in staying at home, when it comes to distributing patronage. This sentiment does not seem to prevail to any alarming extent at Astoria on the Pacific ocean.—Atlanta Constitution.

No city can prosper that does not support home institutions. A newspaper is as much of a home institution as a manufacturing industry.—Denver Post.

Astoria, Ore., has a bright, new newspaper, but it complains that the board of trade of that city sends away from home for advertising matter for the city. No city can prosper unless its newspapers receive sufficient support and that should come from the home people.—Omaha Bee.

## HOTEL ARRIVALS.

## Occident.

J. M. Lamb, Portland.  
N. P. Sorensen, Portland.  
Jas. B. Carr, Portland.  
J. H. Barkley, Denver.  
C. M. Hooper, Portland.  
D. M. McGarity, San Francisco.  
H. E. Jones, Portland.  
A. G. Barker, Portland.  
J. R. Stevens, Portland.  
W. S. Thorndyke, and wife, Colorado.

J. L. Beardsley and wife, Portland.  
Capt. Burns, Gold Beach.  
Miles Thompson, Gold Beach.  
H. Going, Portland.  
A. B. Nye, Portland.  
M. Roff, Portland.  
H. E. Meserve, Grays River.  
Otto Schuman, Portland.  
W. Lohman, San Francisco.

## Grave Trouble Foreseen.

It needs but little foresight to tell that when your stomach and liver are badly affected, grave trouble is ahead unless you take the proper medicine for your disease, as Mrs. John A. Young of Clay, N. Y., did. She says: "I had neuralgia of the liver and stomach, my heart was weakened, and I could not eat. I was very bad for a long time, but in Electric Bitters, I found just what I needed, for they quickly relieved and cured me." Best medicine for weak women. Sold under guarantee by Chas. Rogers, druggist, at 50c a bottle.

## Dress as Well as You Can.

By having your spring suits made by Strauss Bros., Chicago. Great display of new spring styles at C. H. Cooper's on next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

**DON'T**  
Neglect to inspect our "swagger" stock of Clothing for spring, built for Man or Boy

## The Man

Who is fond of good clothes is the man we like to see come into our store. Once he tries on one of our easy, neat fitting, double or single breasted suits, 'tis a sure sale

\$10.00

to

\$30.00

## The Boy

Who is fond of garments that is "chock" full of style, and quality to withstand the strain that a boy full of life and vigor is bound to put them to, will be delighted with such clothing as we are showing

\$2.00

to

\$13.00



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Every garment guaranteed to give entire satisfaction or your money refunded

**P. A. STOKES**

KEEPS A DRESSY SHOP FOR DRESSY MEN.

## THE STAR THEATER

Astoria's Fashionable Vaudeville house in connection with Star and Arcade theaters of Portland.

Change of Program Monday.  
Change of Acts Thursdays

MATINEE DAILY AT 2:45 P. M.  
MONSTER BILL  
Week Beginning March 13.

WASHER BROS.  
The Renowned and Original Boxing Midgets

MONS. SILVANO  
The Musical Artist and Shadow-prapher

HANSEN & DREW  
Comedy Sketch Artists in "Breaking Up Housekeeping."

Pictured Melodies by  
ROB KENTON  
"Boys Are Coming Home Today."

Projectoscope Showing the following subjects: Taking a Port Agalin; Corean Execution; Last Attack on Hill; Surrender of Port Arthur.

Admission 10 cents to any seat.

## BUSINESS LOCALS.

Danziger & Co. are open for business.

Just received, some fancy smoked bloaters. ASTORIA GROCERY.

Just received today, a fresh shipment of fancy creamery butter—Watsonville brand. Ford & Stokes Company.

The Occident tonsorial parlors and bath facilities are equalled by none. Everything modern and up to date. See Peterson.

Do you know that the McCrea-Ford Co., 638 Commercial street, are making a big reduction on all photographs during the Lenten season?

R. M. Gaston, at his feed stable No. 105 14th street, offers for sale a Landis harness machine; one butcher's wall scales, will be sold cheap.

Jap-a-Lac, the finest finish for floors has proven both durable and makes a fine finish. B. F. Allen & Son have received a complete assortment.

Now is the time to order your clothes so as to have them by Easter Sunday. Call at C. H. Cooper's on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and select your suit and have it made to please your own taste and satisfaction.

Courteous treatment, an abundance of amusement, together with a line of all popular brands of liquid refreshments, has made the LaTosca a popular resort.

## First National Bank of Astoria

ESTABLISHED 1886

Capital and Surplus

\$100,000

## JAP-A-LAC

THE MODEL FINISH FOR  
FLOORS, WOODWORK,  
METALWORK AND  
FURNITURE.

Wears Like Iron.

## B. F. ALLEN &amp; SON

The  
Palace  
Cafe.

## The Best Restaurant.

Regular Meals 25c.  
Everything the Market Affords.  
Sunday Dinners a Specialty.

## Palace Catering Co.



Pin your faith to us. We will supply you with the best and freshest quality of drugs and druggist's sundries that your money can buy. Just now we would call attention to the sale of

## Fine Toilet Soap

Which has quality as its keynote. Here are a few samples of the good values your money will buy: Conte's Imported Castile Soap, 65c a bar; fancy Toilet Soap from 25c to 10c a box.

## FRANK HART, Druggist.

Corner 14th and Commercial Sts.

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F. L. BISHOP, Secretary

A. L. FOX, Vice President,  
ASTORIA SAVING BANK, Treas.

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CANNING MACHINERY, MARINE ENGINES AND BOILERS.  
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